

TOP SECRET

ALBANIA

December 1953

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

1. GENERAL DEVELOPMENTS

Ex-King Zog's position vis-a-vis the Egyptian authorities remained static during December. A message from Zog on 22 December stated that through his lawyers he had offered to compromise and had received a reply that experts were examining the tax and custom duties charges against him. Zog stated further that he had been ordered to appear for trial on 4 January. In an effort to prevent Zog's humiliation at a public trial, NSA Division instructed one of its covert contacts to intercede with Vice Premier Bear on behalf of Zog.

On 3 December, Radio Tirana broadcast a statement that the Albanian Government had proposed to the Yugoslav Government the reestablishment of diplomatic relations. An AP dispatch from Belgrade dated 21 December stated that the Yugoslavs had accepted the proposal. The Yugoslav Legation in Tirana was closed on 30 May 1950, and on 11 November of that year the Yugoslav Government announced that it had expelled the remaining Albanian diplomatic personnel from Belgrade and closed the Albanian Legation there. Since that time diplomatic exchanges between the two countries have been carried out through their respective legations in Budapest.

In its reply to the Albanian proposal to establish a joint Albanian-Greek commission to restore border markers, the Greek Government is reported to have stated that, since an armistice exists between the two countries, the Albanian General Staff should apply to the Greek General Staff for discussion of the subject. The reply is also reported to have stated that replacing the markers should not be construed as altering the Greek right to pursue claims on Albania or as an alteration in the existing relations between the two countries.

Radios Tirana and Belgrade announced that two agreements were signed on 11 December between Albania and Yugoslavia providing for the reestablishment of destroyed or damaged border posts and the prevention and settlement of future border incidents. A separate protocol was signed to regulate joint use of water at two disputed border points and to provide for the return of cattle which wander across the frontier into either country.

2. SYNOPSIS

The Albanian Project GEOPUS is directed [] by the Project [] handles the interrogation and screening of Albanian refugees. The activities of the WCPA in Rome are directed by an SE representative there.

3. OPERATIONAL SUMMARY - (GEOPUS)

A. Paramilitary

A communique issued by the Albanian Ministry of Interior on 29 December announced the capture or death of nine American espionage agents. All nine are members of the Zogist teams, Apple, Orange and Plum, infiltrated into the country during 1952 and 1953. Not mentioned by name were two other team members, who are presumed to be dead. The communique further stated that the captured man had confessed and that the trial would take place soon. Three of the nine men were said to have been killed immediately after parachuting into the country. The announcement claims that all of the men were captured either "a few days after" or immediately upon their arrival in the country. This appears to establish the fact that the Apple Team was under control from the summer of 1952, probably soon after the departure for Greece of the three members who successfully infiltrated on 15 June 1952.

B. Political-Psychological

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D. Political-Parliamentary - (CHOPUS)

(1) The members of the National Committee for Free Albania and the political parties they represent agreed to the broadening of the NCFA by the 12 December deadline set by the British and American Services. Following compromises, the NCFA now consists of a 11-man Executive Committee, composed of representatives from the five major political parties and the independents, and a 15-man consultative committee, instead of the 7- and 10-man committees previously agreed upon by CIA and the British. The NCFA now includes two parties not previously represented. The compromises have been accepted both by the British and ourselves although minor appointments on the consultative committee have yet to be made. The radical element of the Balli Kombetar Agrarian Party which has consistently blocked any broadening of the NCFA in the past refused to accept the changes and has broken with the Party President, Hasan Dosti (also President of the newly reorganized NCFA) and with the NCFA. Still undetermined is the number of members of the BK who will follow the lead of the splinter group and how many will remain under the leadership of Hasan Dosti.

(2) On the night of 27/28 November the British carried out a propaganda leaflet drop over Albania without incident.

(3) Messrs. Hasan Dosti and Abas Kuci, members of the Executive Committee of the NCFA, accompanied by the CIA case officer in Rome, visited the Albanian Guard Company in Germany during the third week of December. During this visit it was learned that the dissident faction of the Balli Kombetar Party, which broke with the Party and with the NCFA over the broadening question, had circulated a 20-point program to members of the Guard Company calling among other things for the sabotage of the NCFA. In addition, a representative of this faction had obtained the signatures of sixty BK members in the Guard Company who agreed to leave the Company as a protest against the broadening. It is not yet clear whether these men will actually resign.

(4) The clandestine radio transmitter located near Athens maintained a regular broadcast schedule during December. However, [] reported disappointing results from the special monitoring of the radio broadcasts by the operations vessel in the Adriatic in late November. All except the 0730 broadcast were of poor audibility, and reception of the 0730 broadcast was clear only at the northernmost point of the vessel's journey, about 25 miles off the Albanian coast near Lezh.

(5) Shqipëria, the NCFA fortnightly newspaper, was published on schedule in Rome. The digest version, for use in air drops, was printed in Germany.

[Chief, SE-1]